



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-2200



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 10, 1992

International and Operational Law Division

TO WHOM IT MY CONCERN:

This letter is written on behalf of James B. Fowler. I came to know Sergeant First Class James Fowler (retired) during the course of several months during 1988. I am pleased to present the following information as to the character and fitness of this individual and as to the facts related to my association with him.

I am a military attorney in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps. I first met James Fowler in the summer of 1988 while on a U.S. Army military deployment in Thailand. At that time I was the legal officer for the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). Later that year, Mr. Fowler was the key government witness in a criminal trial involving a senior U.S. Army soldier in the 1st Special Forces Group - United States vs. Sergeant Major Edward Gleason. This case was a complex case involving allegations that Sergeant Major Gleason was involved in illegal drug smuggling, gun smuggling, and solicitation to commit murder. It was suspected that the drug smuggling and gun smuggling was carried out from Thailand to Okinawa.

Sergeant Major Gleason was convicted in a U.S. military court-martial for solicitation to commit murder on another U.S. soldier while in Bangkok, Thailand in 1988. The allegations of drug smuggling and gun smuggling were not proved. Sergeant First Class Fowler (retired) was the key witness against Gleason. I was the main government prosecutor against Sergeant Major Gleason and arranged for Fowler to testify against Sergeant Major Gleason. Gleason is currently serving a seven year sentence in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. During the trial preparation I had the opportunity to spend hundreds of hours working very closely with James Fowler, both in Thailand and on the island of Okinawa. I have prosecuted hundreds of cases over my thirteen years as a military attorney and I can state that I came to know Mr. Fowler better than any other witness I have ever dealt with.

After the trial, James Fowler returned to his home in Thailand. I cautioned Fowler to be careful for his safety as it was common knowledge that Mr. Gleason had many friends in Thailand who might try and do him harm as a result of his testimony against Gleason. I was also concerned for my own safety.

I am not clear as to why James Fowler is serving a jail sentence in Thailand. I have been informed that Mr. Fowler has been convicted under Thai law for transporting a package of illegal drugs out of Thailand. However, he was not arrested in the act. Based on my knowledge of the character of James Fowler, I find this charge hard to believe.

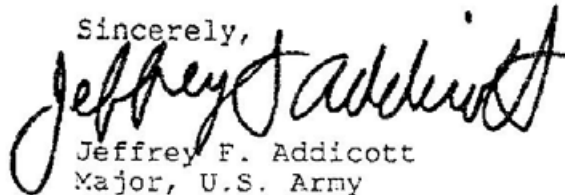
I have also been told that my name was placed on the package that was introduced into the mail system. I can say that at no time did I ever receive, mail, or in any way participate in any illegal activities associated with illegal drugs, nor do I have any knowledge whatsoever about this. Indeed, I have not returned to Thailand since my departure on 6 June 1989. I cannot understand how my name would be placed on the package of illegal drugs.

Furthermore, from what I have been able to learn of Mr. Fowler's character, I do not believe that he is the type of individual who would engage in such activities. In my mind, I would point out that there is a real possibility that Mr. Fowler may have been framed or set up by others who seek to do harm to him. When witnesses testify against criminals, there is always the possibility that the criminal will try and "get even" with the witness who testified against him. This may have been the case with Mr. Fowler and deserves' close attention by competent authorities. I believe that Sergeant Major Gleason may well have arranged for the package to be sent out of Thailand to Mr. Fowler's address with my name on it. Fowler's address and my name were information available to Sergeant Major Gleason at his trial.

Without a doubt, Mr. Fowler has a sterling background of service to the United States, both in the military and in law enforcement. It is extremely difficult for me to believe that Mr. Fowler would engage in illegal activity. It just does not make sense. Mr. Fowler exhibits an impeccable sense of balance that is lacking in most people.

Mr. Fowler's reputation is as a person of the deepest integrity and trust. Without reservation, I strongly urge immediate and favorable consideration of his application for review of his case. If I can be of any service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey F. Addicott
Major, U.S. Army